Station Civil Lines, Rohtak. The main allegation in the FIR was that wheat meant for open sale was allocated by SRM, FCI, Haryana, to the traders and profiteers. The FIR names the then SRM, FCI, Haryana, and two FCI officials, apart from private parties.

(c) The State Police authorities have informed that 5 persons have been arrested so far in this case, including two FCI officials of District Office, Rohtak, and three traders. All these five accused are presently in judicial custody. Investigation has not been completed as yet. It has also been reported that there are allegations against SRM, FCI, Haryana and further evidence has been collected by the Police. Warrant of arrest against the then-SRM, FCI, Haryana, has been issued. Stranous efforts are being made to trace him early.

(d) The request from the Government of Haryana to entrust the case to the CBI for investigation has been referred to the CBI for necessary action.

(e) Total number will be known only after completion of investigation. Action in the matter is being taken by the State Police Authorities. So far two official of FCI's District Office, Rohtak, alongwith three traders, have been arrested by the Rohtak Police Authorities. SRM, Haryana, who was on deputation with FCI has been repatriated to his parent cadre, Haryana, with effect from 7.2.97. Warrant of arrest against the then SRM, Haryana has been issued. Orders placing the two FCI officials under suspension have also been issued by FCI's Regional Office, Haryana.

Cornering of Large Quantities of Wheat

190. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered any CBI enquiry into the Cornering of large quantities of wheat released by Food Corporation of India by a select cartel of traders during the last quarter of 1996;

(b) whether this has led to spiralling of wheat prices as also need to import of wheat in the first quarter of 1997; and

(c) the steps taken to punish the guilty in the matter and avoid such situation developing in future?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) A request has been received from the Government of Haryana to entrust the case relating to irregularities in sale of wheat meant for open sale under OMSS(D) to traders, to CBI for investigation. The matter has been taken up with the CBI.

(b) The requirement of consumers of foodgrains is met through PDS/RPDS and other welfare schemes at prices fixed by the Government. The decision regarding import of wheat was taken by the Government to augment the availability of wheat as also to contain rising prices.

(c) Two FCI officials and three others have been arrested. The FCI Officials have also been placed under suspension. The services of the then Senior Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana have been repatriated to his parent cadre. Warrant of arrest against the then Sr. Regional Manager, FCI, Haryana, has been issued. The matter is still under investigation by the State Police.

PSUs Favoured with the Financial Autonomy

191. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) names of the PSUs which have been favoured with the financial autonomy; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The financial autonomy to the PSUs is not enterprise specific and is general as per Government guidelines issued from time to time.

गुजरात में कृषि, वन और खनिज आधारित उद्योगों को स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव

192. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का गुजरात में कृषि, वन और खनिज आधारित उद्योग स्थापित करने का विचार है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या गुजरात सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को इस सम्बन्ध में कोई प्रस्ताव अनुमोदनार्थ भेजा है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) सरकार ने इस संबंध में अब तक क्या निर्णय लिया है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री मुरासोली मारन): (क) से (ङ) 1994-96 की अवधि के दौरान गुजरात राज्य में कृषि, वन और खनिज आधारित उद्योगों की स्थापना करने के लिए 6 आशय पत्र जारी किये गये हैं। पिछले तीन सालों में गुजरात सरकार से इस संबंध में औद्योगिक लाइसेंस के लिए कोई भी आवेदन प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

New Policy Initiative for Industry

193. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal of new policy initiatives for industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Government have announced a series of measures in the past few months to further liberalise the industrial and investment policy. These includes delicensing of entertainment electronics, new guidelines for licensing in the sugar industry, increase in the limits for lumpsum payments for foreign technology agreements, enlargement of the list of industries eligible for automatic approval, increase in the limits of foreign equity for automatic approval for specified industries up to 74%, publication of the guidelines for the Foreign Investment Promotion Board, etc. All these measures are aimed towards increasing the investments and for providing greater incentive to both domestic and foreign investors for setting up industry in this country as well as to make Indian industry competitive in the international market.

MoU by NSIC with SBDC of Trinidad and Tobago

194. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Small Business Development Company Limited (SBDC), Trinidad and Tobago;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the potential of small usiness identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) has signed a MoU with the Small Business Development Company (SBDC) Ltd., Trinidad & Tobago for working out a detailed action plan for the promotion of small enterprises in that country. The potential for business is being jointly assessed by the NSIC and SBDC.

विदेशी निवेश को बढ़ावा दिया जाना

195. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में विदेशी निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से विदेशी निवेशकों की निवेश